



**Eddie A. Perez**  
**Mayor**

**MAYOR PEREZ CONGRATULATES JOSÉ COLÓN-RIVAS  
ON RECEIVING NATIONAL AWARD  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN  
TO ACCEPT PRESTIGIOUS LEWIS HINE AWARD**

**---MAYOR'S MESSAGE---**

(March 14, 2008)--- Mayor Eddie A. Pérez is proud to announce that José Colón-Rivas, the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office For Young Children, has been selected to receive the prestigious Lewis Hine Award For Service to Children from The National Child Labor Committee (NCLC). The Mayor will make the official presentation at an awards banquet on March 31<sup>st</sup> in New York City. Dr. Colón-Rivas was chosen for his outstanding service to children and youth.

Mayor Pérez says, "Education starts at birth and Hartford's youngest residents deserve the best possible opportunities when it comes to healthcare and health screenings, parental support systems, affordable and dependable quality childcare, and a seamless transition from preschool to Kindergarten. Under José's leadership and guidance--- our children and their families are in good hands. José is an innovative and accomplished educator who has dedicated himself to this mission of making a positive difference for our children--- one that will last a lifetime."

Dr. Colón-Rivas has served in his current position since 2005. Prior to that, he was Director of Early Childhood Education and Accreditation with Hartford Public Schools. He is one of ten professionals and volunteers who are being honored this year by the NCLC for their extraordinary devotion, time, and energy on behalf of children and youth.